

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 20, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 2-4, 11, 13-16, 18 and 19 were pending in this Application. Claims 2-4, 11, 13-16, 18 and 19 were rejected. No claim amendments have been made in this response. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

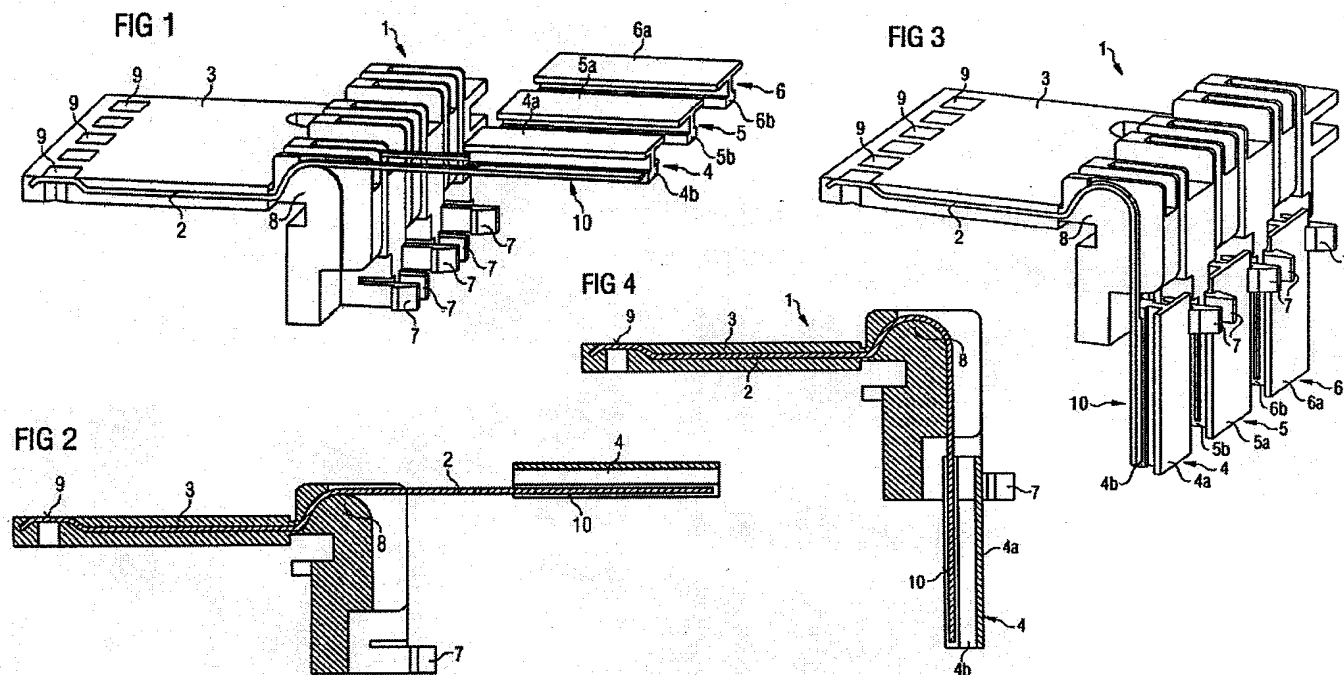
Claims 2-4, 11, 13-16, 18 and 19 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,178,563 issued to Carl G. Reed ("Reed") in view of U.S. Patent 6,099,324 issued to Janssen et al. ("Janssen").

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the references cited by the Examiner must disclose all claimed limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). Furthermore, according to § 2143 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Claims 2, 11, 13, and 18 recite "a bending collar around which the conductor device can be bent." According to the specification of the present application,

In Figures 3 and 4, the contacting component 1 is shown in the final assembled state. In order to reach this state, starting from Figure 1 or 2, each valve plug 4, 5, 6 is bent down-wards by approximately 90° by *bending around an integral bending collar 8* formed on the base component 3 so that the valve plugs 4, 5, 6, more precisely, the specific plate-shaped areas of the valve plugs engage with two latches 7 in each case that are also embodied integrally on the base component 3.

See Application at Paragraph 30. Figures 1 - 4 of the original specification of the present patent application are reproduced below.



The bending collar 8 is clearly identified in each of the figures. Further, as the conductor device is reconfigured from its initial assembly state (Figures 1 and 2) to its final assembly state (Figures 3 and 4), the conductors are bent around bending collars 8. Thus, the application expressly teaches a bending collar 8 around which the conductor can be bent. Benefits of the bending collar are also disclosed.

Particularly favorably, the first and/or the second plastic component feature a bending collar around which the conductor device can be bent. As a result, additional tools or auxiliary means when engaging the two plastic components can be dispensed with. The conductor device is then bent automatically when assembling the contacting component. In addition, the bending process can then be automated cost-effectively.

See Application at Paragraph 14.

In the rejection, it is noted that Reed “does not disclose a bending collar.” *See* OA at 2. A premise of the rejection is that “Janssen et al disclose a bending collar being formed in a second component (44)(Fig 6) for supporting a conductor device (34).” *See* OA at 2. This premise fails for two reasons. First, the claims do not require that a component merely “supports” the conductor. Rather, the claims require “a bending collar around which the conductor device can be bent.” Second, Janssen et al. fails to teach a bending collar. It merely states:

With reference now to FIGS. 6 and 7, the second contacts *have been bent through 90 degrees* such that the unit is ready to be installed upon the basic motor by, for example, the motor manufacturer.

See Janssen et al., 3:31-34 (emphasis added). While Janssen et al. teaches the conductors are bent, it says nothing about bending collars around which the conductors are bent. Further, no such bending collars are illustrated in the figures. Thus, the invention as claimed in claims 2, 11, 13, and 18 is patentable in view of the cited prior art. Similarly, the invention as claimed in claims 3, 4, 14-16 and 19 is patentable for the same reasons.


CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Grubert', is written over the typed name.

Andreas Grubert
Reg. No. 59,143

Date: September 20, 2006

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